

Message Text

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53

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 L-02 SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

/058 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:MHENDERSON:JY

APPROVED BY EA/LC:LMRIVES

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P 041734Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: DEAN/SHARMAN CASE

GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS

REF: STATE 016525

1. DESK OFFICER IN CONVERSATION TODAY WITH JOHN SHARMAN, UNCLE OF NEIL SHARMAN, WAS GIVEN FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH SHARMAN SAID HE RECEIVED TODAY IN TELEGRAM FROM HIS COLLEAGUE BILL CAREW, J. WALTER THOMSON REPRESENTATIVE IN SYDNEY, ACCORDING TO SHARMAN, CAREW HAD DISCUSSED CASE WITH REDPATH IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY WHO TOLD CAREW TO INFORM SHARMAN OF FOLLOWING.

A. THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE HAS CONVINCED THE PATHET LAO THAT NEIL SHARMAN IS NOT A CIA MAN AND THAT HE IS NOT A JOURNALIST. PATHET LAO HAVE TOLD THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE THAT SHARMAN WILL BE RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEASED SOON BUT WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE.

B. CHARLES DEAN'S SITUATION IS MORE DIFFICULT SINCE DEAN IS AN AMERICAN AND IT IS HARD TO CONVINCE THE PATHET LAO THAT DEAN IS NEITHER A CIA MAN OR JOURNALIST. THE PATHET LAO CONSIDER ANY UNREGISTERED JOURNALIST IN LAOS AS LIKELY TO BE A CIA AGENT.

C. THE TWO BOYS WERE SEEN AT HEING BANG (SIC) 180 KM FROM VIENTIANE, ONE WEEK AGO.

2. JOHN SHARMAN FEELS THAT THE MESSAGE RELAYED TO HIM IS GOOD NEWS AND EXPECTS THAT HIS NEPHEW WILL BE RELEASED FAIRLY SOON. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE AND WILL ALSO KEEP US INFORMED DIRECTLY ON ANYTHING FURTHER HE HEARS.

3. DESK OFFICER QUESTIONED JOHN SHARMAN ABOUT DETAILS OF REPORT ABOVE BUT SHARMAN COULD ONLY REPEAT FROM TELEGRAM. POINT C WOULD SEEM TO BE REFERENCE TO HIN BOUN.

4. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE IDENTIFIES REDPATH AS CLERK IN CONSULAR SECTION, MFA.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION CANBERRA MAY HAVE WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THIS REPORT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE025100
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MHENDERSON:JY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750040-0793
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750273/aaaacnwi.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 016525
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEAN/SHARMAN CASE GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS
TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA, AS, US, (DEAN, CHARLES M), (SHARMAN, NEIL)
To: VIENTIANE CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006